GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:303
ANSWERED ON:03.02.2017
Antibiotic Resistance
Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the resistance to antibiotic bacteria during recent years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has identified key factors responsible for such rising antibiotic and antimicrobial resistance 91 and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has taken measures to regulate the human consumption of antibiotics or issued any guidelines to restrict the over-the-counter availability of certain antibiotics and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has any penal provision for over-the-counter sales of certain drugs, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a): Yes, it is a fact that there has been an increase in the antibiotic resistance in the past few years. There are many publications from various institutions in India showing high level of resistance to antibiotics.
Government of India has launched the 'National Programme on Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)' under the 12th Five Year Plan under which a surveillance lab network of ten labs has been established to monitor trends of AMR in the country. The trends from AMR data gathered in the year 2015 from these tertiary care centres show high resistance to commonly used antibiotics for treatment of bacterial infections.
(b): Through various studies conducted in various institutions in India, it is a known fact that over/ mis-use of antimicrobial drugs are responsible for rising antimicrobial resistance in human, animal and food sectors. Other factors are inadequate sanitation and infection control practices in health care settings and also in the community.
(c) & (d): The Schedule H1 notification of the Government of India on Aug 30, 2013, as an amendment to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules of 1945, came into force from Mar 1, 2014 to control the misuse of 24 antibiotics (falling under third and fourth generation) through over-the-counter (OTC) dispensing of antibiotics in India. The packaging of these drugs will have mandatory Schedule H1 warning printed on the label in a box with red border and the Rx symbol in red. They can be sold by pharmaceutical chemists only on production of a valid prescription. Government drug inspectors can conduct surprise checks on these registers.
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